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(Washington, D.C.) - Today, Congressman Albio Sires was appointed to serve on three subcommittees of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Rep. Sires will serve as a member of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment (including Central Asia), the Subcommittee on Europe, and the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

"The many emerging democratic nations around the world are crucial to their own national and regional stability," said Congressman Sires. "As a member of this Committee, I have a unique opportunity to help forge lasting relations between the American people and the international community. I look forward to learning more about all of the regions under my jurisdiction and helping to improve cultural and political understanding between our societies."

The regional subcommittees on which Congressman Sires will serve have jurisdiction over a number of issues including: political relations between the United States and countries within the region, disaster assistance, legislation and oversight regarding human rights practices, oversight over matters related to the regional activities of the United Nations, and oversight of all foreign assistance activities affecting the region.

In addition to its regional jurisdiction, the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, oversees international environmental policy, international fishing agreements, and scientific developments that may affect foreign policy. This will also include issues related to global warming and climate change.

"As a Hispanic legislator and a Cuban, I hope to provide valuable insight and knowledge to the subcommittees on which I serve," said Congressman Sires. "At a time when the United States and Americans are so ill perceived by nations abroad, we must work within the global community to improve our current standing in the world."